

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7677

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 3077

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, GH

SUBJ: GHANA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: ACCRA 0607

1. REFTEL SAID THAT BRIG. ALEXANDER ARTHUR CRABBE, GHANA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER IN KAMPALA, WAS BEING REPOSTED TO PRAGUE. WE UNDERSTAND HE IS SCHEDULED TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS ON MAY 10.

2. OUR BIO DATA ON CRABBE IS LIMITED. BORN MAY 8, 1928, HE WAS EDUCATED IN GHANA (1942-45), JOINING THE GHANA ARMY FOR CADET TRAINING IN 1951 AND LATER (1957) RECEIVING TRAINING IN REGIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS IN U.K. HE SERVED WITH GHANAIAAN FORCES IN THE CONGO IN 1961. FOLLOWING THE COUP WHICH OUSTED NKRUMAH IN 1966, CRABBE WAS SELECTED TO ATTEND THE U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE AT FORT LEAVENWORTH. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO GHANA IN 1967, HE WAS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATION (EQUIVALENT TO GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL REGION OF GHANA) AND HELD THIS POST UNTIL THE ELECTED CIVILIAN BUSIA GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER IN 1969. CRABBE RETIRED FROM THE ARMY IN 1970 AND BECAME MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE GHANA CARGO HANDLING CO. AT TEMA, THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR PORT, FOLLOWING THE 1972 COUP WHICH OVERTHREW THE BUSIA REGIME, HE WAS NAMED HIGH COMMIS-
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SIONER TO UGANDA IN MAY 1972. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW HE FARED IN THIS ASSIGNMENT, BUT HIS PREVIOUS MILITARY RECORD WAS GOOD. CONSISTENTLY RATED AS A GOOD OFFICER AND WELL REGARDED BY HIS COLLEAGUES, HE WAS CONSIDERED A BETTER FIELD COMMANDER THAN AN ADMINISTRATOR. CRABBE IS MARRIED. HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE FOUR CHILDREN.

3. FYI, WE UNDERSTAND THAT GHANA HAS QUIETLY SUSPENDED RELATIONS

WITH UGANDA FOLLOWING A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES WITH AMIN. SIX
GHANAIAIAN TEACHERS ASSIGNED TO UGANDA REPORTEDLY ARE MISSING AND
PRESUMED DEAD. SMITH

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